In 2012, Ohio ranked 47th worst out of 50 states for overall infant mortality. Even more concerning is Ohio ranks 50th (last place) for the worst black infant mortality. In Mahoning County the Mahoning Youngstown Birth Outcome Equity Team was formed in late 2013. Local representatives from the hospitals, health departments and community organizations are the members of this group known as MY Baby’s 1st. Our goal is for more infants in Mahoning County and Youngstown to reach their 1st birthday. Our group is focusing on education of birth spacing (greater than 18 months), progesterone to prevent premature birth recurrence, safe sleep (alone, on their back in an empty crib), and breastfeeding. Two programs Centering Pregnancy and BEST for social support are also new initiatives.

Collaborating with The Mahoning County Medical Society Alliance will focus on development of additional safe sleep education materials.

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On May 28, 2015 The Mahoning County Medical Society Alliance presented a check in the amount of $1300 to Akron Children’s Hospital Mahoning Valley Safe Sleep Program, made possible by The AHEI (Alliance Health Education Initiative). With the $1300, Akron Children’s Hospital was able to create and print 5000 door hangers designed to educate parents on the proper way to put their new born baby to sleep in the safest way. These door hangers are being distributed in 1,750 safe sleep kits in St Elizabeth Boardman Hospital, Nursery, St Elizabeth Boardman Hospital, Akron Children’s NICU, Akron Children’s Hospital, Special Care Nursery, Beeghly Campus, St Joseph Warren Hospital, Special Care Nursery, Mahoning Valley Birthing Center, St Elizabeth Centering Pregnancy, Valley Care Trumbull Memorial Medical Center Nursery, Valley Care Northside Medical Center Nursery, St Joseph Warren Hospital Nursery and throughout the community by Alliance members. In addition to these locations Safe Sleep Kits are being distributed to at risk babies admitted at age of less than 6 months in Akron Children’s Hospital, Beeghly Campus, Pediatrics and Akron Children’s Hospital, St Joseph Warren Hospital, Pediatrics. The goal of this collaboration is to help reduce infant mortality in The Mahoning Valley.

If you or someone you know is interested in donating to The AHEI, a granting foundation, visit alliancehei.org. Donations are tax deductible. You can also donate directly to Akron Children’s Hospital Mahoning Valley Foundation online or by mail.

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MCMSA - President
OSMAA - District Director 6, Health Promotions Chair